



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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County Counsel

March 18, 2010

TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: JOHN F. KRATTLI 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **The Estate of Harutyun Danaciyan through his Successor-in-Interest, Peruz Danaciyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Nos. BC 410 163 and BC 423 522

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisor's agenda.

JFK:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled The Estate of Harutyun Danacian through his Successor-in-Interest, Peruz Danacian v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case Nos. BC 410 163 and BC 423 522, in the amount of \$400,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Service's budget.

These two lawsuits arise from the death of a patient who was hospitalized at the Olive View Medical Center.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Estate of Harutyun Danaciyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
	Peruz Danaciyan, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 410163 (for Estate Action) BC 423522 (for Wrongful Death)
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court Central District
DATE FILED	March 20, 2009 (for BC 410163) October 8, 2009 (for BC 423522)
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$400,00 plus the assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$572.79
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Levik Yarian, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian
NATURE OF CASE	On March 10, 2008, Harutyun Danaciyan, a 58-year- old male, was admitted to Olive View Medical Center. He was later transferred to LAC+USC Medical Center to undergo back surgery. After receiving various treatments at both County and non-County facilities, the patient was transferred back to Olive-View Medical Center where he remained until his death on February 20, 2009.

While the patient was at the County facilities, he developed bed sores. They later became infected.

The estate of the Harutyun Danaciyun and his surviving family filed separate actions against the County alleging that the care provided to the patient was inappropriate. The plaintiffs contend that the inadequate skin care provided by the County facilities contributed to the development of the patient's bed sores and eventually to the infection that caused the death of the patient.

The County proposes to settle this case in the amount of \$400,000 plus the assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$572.79.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$	58,033.50
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$	12,009.82

Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.



Date of incident/event:	3/19/08
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On March 10, 2008, Harutyun Danacyan, a 58 year-old man, was admitted to Olive View/UCLA Medical Center. He was later transferred to LAC+USC Medical Center to undergo a back surgery. After receiving various treatments at both County and non-County facilities, Mr. Danacyan was transferred back to Olive View/UCLA Medical Center where he remained until his death on February 20, 2009. While Mr. Danacyan was at the County facilities, he developed bed sores.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

Lack of adequate skin care resulting in pressure ulcers.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- Appropriate personnel corrective actions were done
- A skin care nurse specialist was hired (OVMC)
- All DHS hospitals reported that they have an individual who has been specially trained in care and treatment of pressure ulcers and is a key resource for staff
- Skin care protocols were revised in all DHS hospitals
- Nurses were educated on reporting requirements for pressure ulcers (LAC)
- Staging of pressure ulcers is a nursing core competency for 2010
- Training was provided to the RNs and LVNs on staging and management of pressure ulcers
- All DHS hospitals educated their staff about the requirement for reporting hospital acquired pressure ulcers
- All DHS hospitals use national staging guidelines to stage pressure ulcers and have educated staff regarding these guidelines
- Incontinence pads were ordered for use in place of diapers for fecal incontinence (LAC)
- All DHS hospitals have incontinence pads for patients who have fecal incontinence
- All DHS acute care facilities participate in the CalNOC pressure ulcer prevalence study. The prevalence of pressure ulcers is monitored quarterly and shows a reduction in prevalence.
- All DHS hospitals participate in an initiative to transform care at the bedside working with the concepts from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance)

☐ Potentially has Countywide implications.

☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).

X Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 2/17/10

Name: (Department Head)	
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 2-17-10

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: John W. Sterritt	
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: 2-18-10

\\Risk Mgt. Inspector General\CAP-SCAP-RECAP\Summary Corrective Action Plan Form 2-01-10 (Final).docx